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# The City of Buffalo Common Council

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Fillmore District Council Member Mitchell P. Nowakowski

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Council Member Nowakowski Calls for Long-Term Agreement with BMHA to Ensure 616 Affordable Units Remain Affordable for Lifetime**

**Buffalo, N.Y.** - Fillmore District Council Member Mitch Nowakowski has called for a long-term agreement from the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority (BMHA) to permanently preserve the affordability of Marine Drive apartments. The Common Council resolved to guarantee the residents of Marine Drive an affordable place to live when this major redevelopment is complete.

BMHA is partnering with private-sector developers, The Habitat Co. of Chicago and Duvernay + Brooks LLC of New York City, to replace Marine Drive with a \$400 million complex that will maintain mixed-income units and add townhomes, mixed-use developments, and other amenities. While BMHA has committed to maintaining at least the 616 affordable units it currently has, Council Member Nowakowski is calling for a formalized, long-term legal agreement to ensure this protection.

"A formal agreement will establish the commitment of 616 affordable units on the city's waterfront and prevent the elimination of those units after the redevelopment expansion has concluded," said Council Member Nowakowski. "It is a prudent step and will reassure residents with legitimate concerns that this large-scale development may cause their displacement or reduce waterfront affordability. We will not let that happen."

The resolution calls on the BMHA Board of Commissioners to develop and present a plan to formalize the guarantee of 616 affordable units through either a formal agreement with New York State or present a Planned Unit Development before the Buffalo Common Council. The resolution also directs the City Clerk to send copies of the resolution to Mayor Byron W. Brown, Congressman Brian Higgins, New York State Senator Timothy M. Kennedy, New York State Assemblymember Jonathan D. Rivera, and the BMHA Board of Commissioners.



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The redevelopment of Marine Drive is expected to take up to a decade to complete fully. The long-term agreement sought by Council Member Nowakowski will ensure that the residents of Marine Drive can continue to call the waterfront home, regardless of their income status.

For media requests or information on this and all Common Council topics, please contact Buffalo Common Council Communications Director Mike Read at [mread@buffalony.gov](mailto:mread@buffalony.gov) or (716) 245-8332.

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